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Heraclitus Ridens,

AT

A DIALOGUE between *JEST* and *EARNEST* Concerning the *TIMES*.

From Saturday February the 12th. to Tuesday the 15th. 170¾.

Jest. IF *this does not fetch him, the De'el fetch him*, for *Jest* and *Earnest*, they have not one Syllable more to say to the Matter, not they. Did you ever see such a Dog in a Doublet as Mr. *Nob.* May I never drink Three in Hand again in Honour of our present House of Commons, if he has not Bullied them to such a degree in his last, Traduc'd 'em in the Person of another of their Members, and shewn as little Regard for Parliamentary Enquiries, as if he had been Skreen'd from Prosecutions by a Superiour Power, as some were known to be in a Reign not a Hundred Miles distant from Her Present Majesty's.

Earn. Not a Word of any *Superiour Power*, I beseech you, for they that Meddle with Edge Tools may chance to cut their Fingers. He has villify'd the Queen enough to shew that he wishes he were none of *Her Subject* though he has the Forehead to call Her, *His Queen*, abus'd the Prince Her Royal Consort in His Administration of the Naval Affairs, which were never better manag'd (whatever his Enemies, if he can have any belide this Master-piece of Impudence, I may say) than by His Royal Highness and his Council, fall'n foul on the Ministry in several of his Papers, been guilty of *Scandalum Magnatum* to the highest Degree, in pretending to vindicate the Lords while he carries about him such an Infamous Character as the whole Kingdom gives him; and can you think either of these Powers so insensible of the Affronts he daily puts upon 'em, so averse to the Peace and Quiet of the Realm, so in Love with Faction and Schism, as to level 'em with the Common People, as to mistake their own Interest in such a manner, as to connive at his Libels, and shew no manner of Resentment for his Riotous Practices? Not in the least. He is fallen under the Displeasure of the Commons assembled in Parliament, has been order'd to be taken into Custody, absconds in defiance of that Order, writes on still in opposition to their wise Deliberations, and they are the Persons more immediately concern'd to take Cognizance of him.

Jest. Which, if they do not, may occasion their Posterity that are to succeed 'em as the Representatives of the People, to think they have not left them the Priviledges of Parliament so entire as they received them from their Ancestors. But Animadversions on his Pennyworth of Faction more properly fall under the Compass of your Sphere; therefore be so kind as to give us your *Cursory Remarks* upon him; tho upon Second Thoughts, *Cursory Remarks*, have been Scandalously made use of for the *Title of a Book* that was some Years since written against the Proceedings of that House you and I are bound in Duty to defend.

Earn. The Paper contains Reflections on a Speech for the Bill against *Occasional Conformity*, supposed to be Spoken in the House by Sir *John Packington*: nor is it unworthy of that Honourble Person, who by Descent, Education and Practice, is an Ornament to the Religion he stands up in Vindication of, and has given an Example that the Fathers of the Church might take Pride in Imitating, I will not say, some of them might be ashamed not to follow. He begins with a Turd, and his Paper will make its Exit in a Close-Stool, if the Tobacconists and Pastry-Cooks do not receive it for another use. He likewise reflects on the Worthy Member, by saying he writes *against the Bishops*, that is, the whole Order of our *English* Hierarchy, and no Man breathing has a greater Veneration for Episcopacy than himself, and since he blows the Trumpet of Sedition, and Invites *every one to be Tooth and Nail against him*, which is the greatest Part of the House of Commons, since the Bill pass'd the House, it is a Wonder to me, that he Skulks about the Skirts of the Town in Contempt of that Mercy which he has so abundantly tasted of, especially since he takes upon him to *Number the People*, and Blacken the Determinations of the Wisest and Gravest Assembly in the World about a Matter of the Greatest Concern that can be, the Security of our Holy Religion, and the Defence of it against the Intrusions of Hypocrites and Dissemblers.

Jest. But, Master of mine, that *Athenian* Law against the Citizens, standing Neuter, that *Corn* which all the *Corn-Cutters* in *England* cannot rid Dr. *Davenant's* little Toe of, sticks damnably in his Stomach. His *Countryman* was order'd to bring *Hengam Magna Hengam Parva*, *Hovedan*, *Plowden*, and *Corderius* his *Collequies* to him, to Hammer out an Answer by, the latter to teach him the true way of Dialogue, for his Worship (as he calls himself) has not all the Learning in the Nation; but nothing would do, he was e'en as wise as he us'd to be, and as in one of his Papers he affirm'd the Apostles, whom we brought in as Teachers of Obedience to Princes, knew nothing of the *English Constitution*; so in this, he says, the *Athenian Statutes*, which are as far distant from

from our Times as the Days of *Solon*, *were against the Bill for preventing Occasional Conformity*; which, in my opinion, is one of the merriest Passages I ever met with amongst any of his Wise Sayings.

Earn. He is altogether to seek for the true Meaning of *Occasional Conformity*. He places it in the *Profits* of the *Place*, not playing the Hypocrite to obtain it, and runs for Arguments against himself as far as *Belgia*, when one would have thought he had borrow'd 'em from *Bœotia*, *Sed Læva in Parte Mamillæ Cor salit Arcadico Juveni*—— He is not his own Man since his Exile from the *Derby* Alehouse in *Westminster*. For if he considers who made their Fortunes in a late Reign, and he would find, I dare to be sworn, some Gentlemen who were born in that *Country*, as well as others who *Copy'd* from their *Constitution* here, not so strait Laced in their *Consciences*, or so narrow in their *Desires*, but they scrap'd up what would buy as many Thousands a Year, as he makes the *Pensioner* of *Holland*'s to be Hundreds.

Jest. But these are but Peccadillo's, mere Petty Larcenaries to the Fact I am to Charge him with; He vindicates King *Charles* the First his Murther, which is a mighty Compliment to his Queen, whom he allows to have no Title by Birth, but to be entirely the Queen of the Revolution.

Earn. That he does truly, and in such a manner, as makes the very *Revolution* a Crime, which he has pretended to Cry up for the most Glorious Work that has been done since the Original of our Constitution. If he was not born before the Restoration, his Father was, and he stands possess'd of the Doctrines of Rebellion by Right of Inheritance. *He has so high a Value for the Prudence and Justice of our Forefathers* (I hope he means his Countryman's and his own) *as not to Condemn any of their Actions for the Common Good*; *but upon* Good Grounds, *which we of this Age can never have in that Particular, the Accounts therof being so very Partial, that the Truth of this Action remains in* Obscurity. *Quid oh! tua fulmina cessant Summe Deum?* Why is not such a Fellow as this Thunder-struck? Can the Murther of the most gracious and merciful Prince be call'd *Prudence*; or Paricide fall under the Name of Justice? Can Rebellion be founded upon *good Grounds*, or calling Kings to an account that are God's Vicegerents, and are only responsible to the Divine Power, be said to be for the *Common Good*? What will become of the Authority of *English* Parliaments, if their Acts that have been confirm'd by the Regal Sanction, shall be thus ridicul'd? Has not the Preamble to the 30th of *January* Act given us the greatest Detestation of that horrid Fact imaginable, and shall he vindicate it. *Si finitis hoc, toleratis omnia Patres conscripti.* If ye that are Senators suffer this, you suffer any thing, and it's no wonder he falls foul on your several *Characters*, when he's suffer'd to trample upon the Venerable and Sacred Ashes of Martyr'd Majesty.

Jest. No wonder truly, that he calls the Parliament the *Codsheads* of the Kingdom, when he vindicates making *Precedents* of Monarchs, who has been heard to say often, That the taking off a Subject's Head, a Rebellious one too, his Master *Monmouth* by Name, was Barbarous because it was unprecedented. He has either a short Memory, or does not mean as he speeks, else he would not have sent his *Countryman* t'other Day in search of *Truth* and *Honesty*, even through the *City* where his Friends live, and not make him capable of finding those two Sparks out amongst all the *Congregational Assemblies*. But the best of all, is, he would have none near the Person of the Queen but *Men of Revolution Principles*, as if those that were for a *Revolution*, were for an Establish'd Government, and *Solomon*'s Advice was of no Importance, when he says to his Son, *Meddle not with those that are given to Change.*

Earn. As for what he alledges in Defence of some of the Bishops, I have nothing to say to it, but those who have the greatest share in the *Church Government*, doubtless should shew the greatest *Concern* for it, *and if the Dissenters are of the same Principles with the Bishops*, the Question may be put to us without offence *Where is your Church?*

Jest. If *there was no Law for Buggery*, Heavens be prais'd, there is for Libelling and Seditious Practices, and if it be not put in force upon thee, most Unrighteous *Nob*, for this Paper of thine, no person need fear *Punishment* for the worst of *Practices!*

Earn. You are not to doubt but his *Superiors* will take notice of him; an Order to the Attorney General for a *Prosecution*, would hamper him, and though he would fling all the Mischief that has happen'd, or will happen upon the Churchmen, I am able to prove from Queen *Elizabeth*'s Reign, even at the *Spanish* Invasion, that the *Puritans* of those Times were such *Revolution Men*, as to forward the bringing in of *Popery* it self to shew themselves as such. Take an Instance of it in the Words of a Celebrated Author, who seems to me in several Passages to be a Man very often in the Dissenters Interest.

But *Bullets* [meaning the *Spanish* Invasion] did not fly about so fast at Sea, as Ballardly *Libels* by Land, fitly so called, because none durst Father them. Their Titles are 1. *The Epitome*, 2. *The Demonstration of Discipline* 3. *The Supplication* 4. *Diotrephes*. 5. *The Minerals*. 6. *Have you any Work for the Cooper*. 7. *Martin Mar-Prelate Sen'* 8. *Martin Jun'* 9. *More Work for the Cooper*. [All wrote by *Puritans*.]

The main Drift and Scope of these Pamphlets were to Defame and Disgrace the *English Prelates*, Scoffing at them for their Garb, Gesture, Apparel, Vanities of their Youth, Natural Defects, and personal Infirmities. It is strange how secretly they were printed, how speedily Dispers'd, how generally Bought, how greedily Read, yea and how firmly believed, especially of the Common Sort, to whom there cou'd be no better Musick than to hear their Betters slander'd. Heavy Censures were Inflicted upon such as were but Accessary thereunto. To pass by *John Penry* and *John Udall* Ministers, Accused for making some of 'em (of whom in due place) together with the *Printers*, and *Humphry Newman* a Cobler, chief Disperser of 'em. The *Star-Chamber* deeply fin'd *Sir Rich. Knightly* and *Sir* ——*Wigston* for Harbouring the Workmen. But by the Mediation of Arch-bishop *Whitgift*, who always shewed great Moderation and Mildness towards his Adversaries, their Fines were Remitted. But several of them were Hang'd, and one died in prison. *Fuller's Worthies*, *B. 9. sect. 7. p. 193, 194, &c.*

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